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## A RARE ART TREASURE FINE HUMOR AT SCHOOL

WONDERFUL WALLPAPER TO BE SEEN IN COUTTS' BANK.

Covers the Walls of the Drawing Room in the Old Bank on the South Side of the Strand, London.—Hand-Painted Panorama of Rural Life in the Celestial Empire Depicted.

Coutts' Bank possesses amongst its many riches a rare art treasure in the shape of a wonderful Chinese wall-paper. This unique fabric, which has covered the walls of the board-room in the old bank on the south side of the Strand, and when the firm left their offices opposite Charing Cross they were for some time puzzled to know how to preserve this treasured ornament. At last it was discovered that it was possible to remove it square by square, and use it in the decoration of the drawing-room in the new bank. The work of removing it



SCENE ON WALL PAPER IN COUTTS' BANK, LONDON.

required the greatest care. Large lengths of paper were pulled out of the wall where the paper had stuck tight, and were afterwards powdered away from it. Eventually the removal was safely accomplished, and the re-hanging of it in the new drawing-room has just been finished.

The paper is indeed worth all the care bestowed upon it. It is a marvellous work of art. It is an exquisite picture of life in a small Chinese town or village, not a mere "willow-pattern" design, but a hand-painted panorama of rural life in the Celestial Empire. To some extent it resembles rich tapestry, but being on paper the tints are much more delicate and delicate, and the picture is faithful to life. Though the coloring is Oriental in its richness, all the tones have become harmoniously blended.

The complete history of the wall-paper is unknown. It came to England more than a hundred years ago, a gift to the celebrated Thomas Coutts from his old friend Lord Macartney, first British envoy to China. Coutts, who had an eye for the artistic value of a picture, was delighted with it, and from which the transactions of the great British banking house were dictated was adorned with the handwork of the Orient.

The healthy old man wears gray hairs like a silver crown. What if he be threescore and ten if there is still fire in his eye, firmness in his step, command in his voice and wisdom in his counsel? He commands love and reverence. Yet how few wear the mantle of age with dignity. Dim eyed, querulous of speech, halting in step, childish in mind, they drag out the rag end of life in a simple existence. The secret of a healthy old age is a healthy middle age. The man who takes care of his stomach, who keeps his body properly nourished, will find that the body does not fail him in old age. The great value of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery lies in the preservation of the working power of the stomach and internal organs of digestion and nutrition. From this centre is distributed the nourishment of the whole body, the salt for the blood, the lime for the bones, phosphorus for the brain and nerves. A sound stomach means a sound man. A man who keeps his stomach healthy by the use of "Golden Medical Discovery" will wear the crown of gray hairs as befits a monarch, with dignity and ease.

A person may attract attention, yet not be very attractive.

The fellow who is the most popular with himself generally has the fewest friends.

—It will pay you to keep Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in your home. It only costs a quarter. Sold by all druggists.

MUCH OF IT IS UNCONSCIOUS, BUT OF FIRST ORDER.

What Occurs When a Child Is Taught Orally and Without Explanations—Dr. Macnamara, M. P., Gives Some Remarkable Examples In His Work "Schoolroom Humor"—Some Absurd and Amusing Stories.

Dr. Macnamara, M. P., in his book, "Schoolroom Humor," has made a collection of children's mistakes and absurdities which is very amusing. Some of the stories are examples of unconscious satire; such, for instance, is that of the case of the boy who said that "the marriage customs of the ancient Greeks were that a man had only one wife, and this was called monogamy."

Other stories show us the working of a child's mind in the way in which it has been taught. For example, a boy who had learned his "Duty To God" orally, being asked to write it down, produced the following: "My duty to God is to bleed in Him, to wither and to loaf without your aid, with my serm to wither and give thanks, to put my old trash in Him."

This example is fifty years old, but the book contains more modern results of bad teaching.

Thus, a child wrote down this version of the tenth commandment: "Thou shalt not count thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not count thy neighbor's wife, mornin' circus, mornin' 'ges, mornin' ass, nor anything that is his."

Many of the answers in the book show that the children had been taught mere isolated items of information, which they supposed to have no object except to provide questions in school. In such cases what is learned is only words.

A child, being asked to name the chief mountains in Scotland, answered: "Ben Nevis, Ben Lomond and Ben Jonson." Dr. Macnamara thinks that boys are more conscientious than boys, and see sooner what is expected of them.

A boy, being asked "Who was Guy Fawkes?" replied: "Guy Fawkes was a man who tried to destroy Parliament."

A child was asked to think of a creature and sometimes comes to the top through a hole. "A worm," replied the child. He was asked to think of another creature with the same habits, and cried in triumph, "Another worm." Lessons that to boys were a kind of game of question and answer.

Some other questions and answers follow: "What is a celestial pole?" "A heavenly perch." "What is poetry?" "Poetry is when every line begins with a capital letter." A child wrote of an imaginary expedition to the north pole. At last we reached the north pole. We sailed into the harbor and went to see the town.

In an account of the Salvation Army they wrote of the women: "They have names on their hats like sailors. They make a deal of noise; the worsted Another child defined a nib, as "the thing there isn't when you buy a pen, a fishing-rod, as "a lot of little holes joined together by a bit of string."

A teacher after explaining the use of the hyphen asked a boy why there was a hyphen in "bird-cage." The boy answered: "Sir." That boy, Dr. Macnamara says was among the dunces, but it was probably because he was more interested in birds than in hyphens. His answer showed he had a trick of learning things for himself.

**Washing Water.**  
Labor and soap may both be saved in the laundry by the use of soft water, and even the hardest of water may be easily softened without the addition of chemicals. Three or four days before it is to be used draw sufficient water for the washing and expose it in tubs, etc., to the action of the sun and air. The trouble is only that of a little forethought and is well repaid.

**For the Kitchen Table.**  
The housekeeper who cannot have a zinc covered kitchen table will find several squares of hard wood an inch in thickness and about five inches long a great convenience for setting hot dishes on. The wood should be sandpapered and each block have a screw eye, with which it is hung under the ledge of the table.

The dead-sure thing doesn't always come to life.

It's a woman's privilege to change her name.

## AUNT MARY'S EXPERIMENT

By C. B. LEWIS

Copyright, 1908, by E. C. Parcella

People said of Aunt Mary Warner, "She was born that way and can't help it." In saying thus they referred to her faith in mankind and charity toward all. As the good wife of Farmer Moses Warner she fed more tramps every year than any ten farmers' wives combined, and whenever she heard any one complaining of the ingratitude of human nature she always had words of excuse. Her reputation as a "good soul" extended for twenty miles around, and the tramp who passed up or down the Red Bridge road without calling and reaping the benefits of her faith was in a hurry to outwalk the constable.

A few weeks before the farmer husband died he spent an hour casting up figures. When the wife expressed her curiosity he replied:

"We have been married going on nineteen years. In that time you have fed 3,600 tramps, you have let 400 tin peddlers get the best of you in buying your paper rags, you have given away 2,000 bushels of apples, you have gathered about a ton of mayweed, catnip and smartweed to give away to people too lazy to gather their own, you have given and done and done and you have dogged if I can see where you are any better off."

"But some one has got to be good to people in trouble," replied Aunt Mary. "Then give some one else a spell at it. You've done your share. This forenoon you fed a great big wall eyed tramp."

"Yes, poor man, and when he had finished the tears stood in his eyes. He said I reminded him of his dead mother."

"Mebbe you did, but he went out through the garden and stole a shovel and a hoe. I tell you, Mary."

"Come, come, Moses," she interrupted, "we must do our duty as we see it, and if you'll turn the other cheek, I'll be sure to turn the other cheek."

Aunt Mary's faith neither increased nor decreased after the death of her husband. She went right along in her same old path, talking about her sainted mother in heaven and devote the rest of his life to the betterment of humanity, and Aunt Mary's heart was kept tender in his interest.

One day there came a drover to the Warner homestead, who bought cattle and sheep and hogs to the amount of \$300 and paid the cash. It was on this day that the stranger set a date for his departure and shed tears of gratitude. The hired man went along with the drover to help with the stock and at dark had not returned.

The stranger took the milk pails and went to the barnyard, but returned without them in a quarter of an hour. He had taken the interval to saddle one of the horses.

"What is it?" asked Aunt Mary as he came into the kitchen, where she was washing dishes.

"I want that \$300," he replied.

"You mean that you are going to rob me?"

"I mean that I'm going away to become a preacher, and I want it to start business on. I shall also take one of the horses."

Aunt Mary sat down and looked at him in a puzzled and bewildered way. The money was in a lower drawer of the bureau in her bedroom. The man walked in and got it and was stuffing it in his pocket as he came out.

"Say, now, but I'm much obliged to you—really I am—but you are so dead easy you know that I just can't help it. So long to you."

Half an hour later, when the hired man entered the room, he found Aunt Mary sitting with her head on the table.

"What's the matter?" he asked.

"Why—why, Mr. Bell felt that he had to go, and he also felt that he had to take one of the horses and that \$300."

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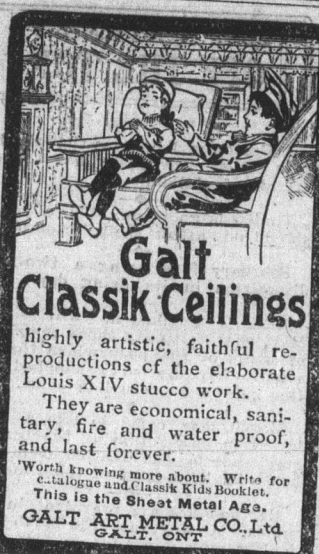
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## PREPARING FOR CHANGE

PRIOR TO EARLY INTRODUCTION OF METRIC SYSTEM.

Prof. MacLennan Engaged to Instruct the People of the Dominion on its Advantages—The Measures of the World—Present Methods Show Great Lack of System and Are Very Confusing—Adopted in Other Countries.

In order to prepare the public for the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures into Canada, should such a step be definitely decided upon, the Dominion Government has engaged Prof. J. C. MacLennan, of Toronto University, to deliver a series of lectures at different points in Ontario between now and the end of the college term.

Similar lectures will be given throughout every part of Canada during the summer by Dr. MacLennan or some one else who is thoroughly acquainted with the system.

Dr. MacLennan has already lectured on the subject in Stratford and Hamilton.

The object of these lectures is to describe the metric system thoroughly, and to show its advantages over the system, or rather variety of systems, of measurement, at present in use in Canada.

**Present Systems Confusing.**  
Dr. MacLennan's addresses will be of a similar character to the one he delivered before the select standing committee on agriculture and colonization at Ottawa in April, 1904. After reviewing the interesting history of the metric system which was introduced into France at the time of the Revolution, and has since been adopted by most of the countries of Europe, he illustrates the extreme simplicity of this method of calculation on account of its decimal character.

He pointed out that we have still in Canada a variety of weights and measures which are very confusing. For instance, the ounce avoirdupois is 437.5 grains, and the ounce Troy, or apothecary, is 480 grains. We have the dram avoirdupois weighing 27.344 grains, and the dram apothecary weighing 60 grains. The mile, according to land measure, is 5,280 feet, while the nautical mile is 6,000 feet. The surveyor's chain is 66 feet, and the engineer's chain 100 feet. The same variety of measurements prevail in every part of the British Empire and in the United States.

**Adopted in Other Countries.**  
The metric system has already been adopted by France, Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece and half a dozen smaller European states, by Egypt, Japan, Persia, China, Mexico and nearly all the South American states.

Dr. MacLennan points out that if the British Empire and the United States would adopt the metric system throughout practically the entire civilized world, the advantages to trade and commerce are obvious. In fact he claims the countries which adhere to the old varieties of measurement are laboring under disadvantages in trade on that account, and shows how the industrial conditions in Canada and every part of the Empire would be improved by adopting the scale of measurement which prevails in the countries whose markets we are competing for.

**New Zealand Adopts It.**  
At the Coronation Conference of Colonial Premiers held in London in 1902 a resolution was adopted to the effect that it would be advisable to adopt the metric system of weights and measures for use within the Empire, and the Prime Ministers urge their Governments to consider its adoption.

The metric system is now legalized in Great Britain, in Canada and in most of the colonies, but nowhere yet is it made compulsory. New Zealand enacted a bill in 1903 by which the system will be made compulsory in that colony during the present year.

In 1904 a bill making the proposed system compulsory in Great Britain and Ireland after April 5, 1906, was introduced in the House of Lords and received its third reading, but sentiment in the House of Commons was against it, and the bill was dropped there.

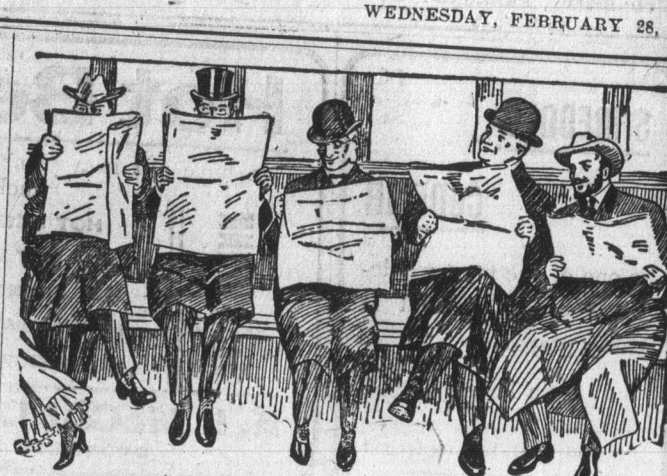
There is now a bill for its introduction in all Government works before the United States Congress. In Canada nothing definite has yet been done towards making the system compulsory.

### A Georgian Bay Record.

A record was made at Wiarton recently by the Crawford Tug Co. that was never before equaled on the Georgian Bay. Twenty-five tons of freight accumulated there for northern points, which could not be delivered on account of bad roads. Messrs. Crawford contracted to deliver the freight by boat to Lion's Head. The steamer Hodgson was loaded Thursday, Feb. 1, and made a start, but the sea being rough about Cape Croker, the boat returned. The crew of experienced sailors and made another start, and succeeded in reaching Lion's Head, 25 miles north, in a little over four hours. After unloading the freight the boat returned on the 4th, and the thermometer below zero, and had to break her way through four inches of ice to her dock. This is the first record of navigating the Georgian Bay in February.

### Brook Monument Receipts.

The receipts from Brook's monument at Queenston Heights were doubled last year. The present keeper of the monument, James MacGillivray, of St. Catharines, was appointed in June last succeeding Mr. Goring. For the year 1903 \$302.30 was collected from visitors ascending the monument. For five years previous to 1905 the receipts were as follows: 1900, \$250.85; 1901, \$526.60; 1902, \$249.45; 1903, \$368.15; 1904, \$387.50. The Pan-American exposition was held in 1902, and the many historic spots along the river bank were viewed by a large number of Americans and Canadians in that year. Still, in 1902, the receipts were only \$249.45.



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